



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh R. Sharkey et al.  
Serial No. : 09/884,859  
Filed : June 18, 2001

Art Unit : 3739  
Examiner : R. Gibson  
Confirmation No.: 3139  
Notice of Allowance Date: 3/9/04

Title : METHOD OF TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TISSUE EMPLOYING  
ATTACHMENT MECHANISM

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

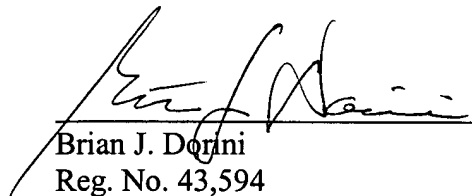
In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed March 9, 2004, enclosed are a completed issue fee transmittal form PTOL-85b and a check for \$1660 for the required issue fee, publication fee, and 10 patent copies.

On April 23, 2004, a Request for Acknowledgement of Domestic Priority was filed, as the Examiner had not acknowledged the claim for domestic priority in this case. No acknowledgement has been received by the undersigned. However, as the claim for priority appears on the Official Filing Receipt, it is assumed that, in the absence of any indication to the contrary, the claim for priority has been perfected and that such claim will appear on the face of the patent.

Please apply any additional charges or credits to our Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: JUNE 8, 2004

  
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